

CIRCULAR, }
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SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., *Sept. 16, 1862.*

The Military Hospitals will be open to the authorized agents of Soldiers' Relief Associations, and other Aid Societies, from twelve o'clock m. to six o'clock p. m., daily; and to the friends of patients and other visitors, if, in the judgment of the surgeons in charge, their visits will not be prejudicial to the welfare of the sick.

Medical officers in charge of general hospitals are directed to examine carefully each provision return, comparing the same with the amount of subsistence stores on hand, and the number in hospital; they will expend the hospital fund *as it accrues*, for the benefit of the sick, and especially in increasing the variety and improving the quality of their diet.

It is believed that many of the complaints respecting the insufficiency of food are due to a mistaken zeal on the part of some medical officers for the accumulation of a large hospital fund.

WILLIAM A. HAMMOND.

Surgeon General U. S. A.

